

REMARKS

Preliminary Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claims to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

Claims 1-29 have been examined. Claims 30 and 31 are hereby added, and claims 2, 12, 21, 24, and 27 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 2, 9-12, 18-24, and 26-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,202,151 to Musgrove et al. (hereinafter '151) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,698,947 to Matyas Jr. et al (hereinafter '947). Claims 3-8, 13-17, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over '151 in view of '947 in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,332,193 to Glass et al. (hereinafter '193).

Claims Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 9-12, 18-24, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over '151 in view of '947. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites an identification system comprising a plurality of end terminals, a plurality of electronic commerce service provider (ECSP) units, and an authentication server. The end terminals transmit transaction request messages to the ECSP units by way of a communications network, each message containing ciphered biometrics data of a user and a user identifier of the user. For each received transaction request message, one of the ECSP units sends an authentication request message that contains the ciphered biometrics data and the user

identifier to the authentication server for authentication. Within the authentication server is a database that maps registered biometrics data to corresponding registered user identifiers. The authentication server receives the authentication request messages, and for each received authentication request message, decipheres the ciphered biometrics data and compares the deciphered biometrics data from the message to one of the registered biometrics data which is mapped in a database to the user identifier from the message. The server then sends a reply to the plurality of ECSP units indicating authentication if the deciphered biometrics data coincides with the mapped biometrics data.

The '151 reference discloses a set of input devices receiving transaction data, biometrics data, and a subject ID from a user. This data is ciphered using various functions and is then sent to a receiver 44 via a network. The receiver 44 then decrypts the data and sends it to a biometric certificate management system (BCMS) 48 for authentication.

The Examiner contends that the set of input devices, the receiver 44, and the BCMS 48 correspond to the claimed end terminals, ECSP units, and authentication server, respectively. The Examiner further alleges that the data transmitted from the input devices to the receiver corresponds to the claimed transaction request message, and that the data transmitted from the receiver to the BCMS corresponds to the claimed authentication request message. However, '151 clearly does not teach a *plurality* of ECSP units which each receive transaction request messages from a plurality of end terminals. Nor does '151 teach an authentication server that receives authentication request messages from several different ECSP units.

Moreover, as shown in Fig. 4 of '151 the alleged ECSP unit "the Inverse of Hash Function 45" decrypts the alleged biometrics data. Thus, '151 does not teach or suggest ciphered biometrics data being received by one of a plurality of ECSP units and being transmitted to an authentication server which decipheres the ciphered biometrics data as claimed in claim 1.

The '947 reference is directed to a biometric authentication system that include remote processors connected through a network. The '947 discloses a central database that stores user identifications with corresponding biometric templates as tuples. The system receives a user identification and biometric sample as a tuple and checks the user supplied biometric sample against the biometric template that corresponds to the supplied user identification.

The Examiner admits that '151 does not disclose the claimed transmittance of the authentication request message via a network or the claimed method of comparing deciphered biometric data with registered biometric data in the database of the authentication server, and cites '947 to supply that deficiency. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to combine the references.

Even if the references are combined as the Examiner asserts, all the limitations would not be met since the combination would not include the claimed authentication server receiving a multitude of authentication request messages from a plurality of ECSP units or the claimed ciphered biometrics data being received by one of the plurality of ECSP units and being transmitted to an authentication server which decipheres the ciphered biometrics data. Because '151 does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1, and because '947 does not cure the

deficiencies of '151, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection.

Since claims 2, 12, 21, 24, and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, their rejection is rendered moot.

Independent claims 11, 20, 22, 26, 28 and 29 contain features analogous to the features recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least for reasons analogous to those discussed above regarding claim 1. Further, Claims 3-10, 13-19, 23, and 25 are dependent on these independent claims and therefore contain all of the limitations of the independent claims. Thus, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 30 and 31. Because these claims contain features analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that they are patentable at least for analogous reasons.

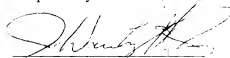
Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-11, 13-20, 22-23, 25-26, and 28-31, being all the claims present in the application, are patentable and that this application is in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that the subject application be passed to issue at the earliest possible time.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Warren Lytle, Jr.
Registration No. 39,283

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 1, 2006